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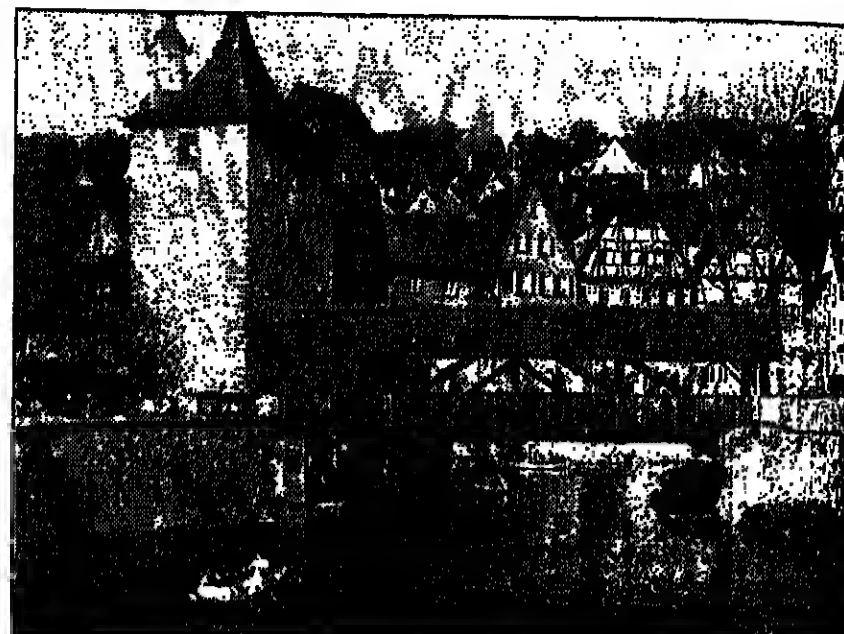
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- 1 Lübeck
- 2 Meisungen
- 3 Schwäbisch Hall
- 4 Berchtesgaden



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change of government is part and parcel of democracy, and we have had few, not too many, in the first 33

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Bonn coalition ends as ministers resign

Free Democrats have resigned from the Bonn coalition leaving the Chancellor, Helmut Schmidt, in charge of a minority government. The end came when four FDP ministers in the Cabinet, Dietrich Genscher (Foreign Affairs), Count Otto Lambsdorff (Economic Affairs), Gerhart Baum (Interior) and Josef Ertl (Agriculture) handed in their resignations. This now means that the governing coalition in the Bundestag will now win the vote of no-confidence against Chancellor Schmidt by teaming with the 53 FDP MPs on 1 October. New elections have been set for 6

years of the Federal Republic of Germany.

Twice in its history there has been a major political take-off, and on both occasions it was well worth while.

Immediately on being elected Konrad Adenauer in 1949 set about, despite his advanced age, tackling two major tasks with enormous verve.

They were the post-war reconstruction of Germany and its close integration in the West.

Twenty years later the Social Democrats under Willy Brandt tackled a fresh set of tasks with equal enthusiasm: coming to terms with the East and setting up a welfare state.

In both periods there were instances of one-sidedness and exaggeration. It is part of the way a democratic change of government works to remedy such errors later.

The legacy a Christian Democratic-led Bonn government now looks likely to inherit from the SPD-FDP coalition is tougher than what the Social Democrats took over in 1969.

In those days the economy was still in full swing after a relatively harmless recession in the second half of the 60s. Unemployment was no problem; neither was the national debt.

Now, government finances are weighed down by enormous incurred debts, unemployment has reached levels last seen in the early 50s and the economy is gasping for breath.

Above all, these problems are only partially home-grown. For the most part the country is groaning under the burden of worldwide economic paralysis about which even a new Bonn government can do very little, and certainly nothing fundamental.

There is a note of tragedy in that a Chancellor whom only root-and-branch opponents can accuse of lacking economic and political understanding is likely to be replaced in such a situation by a



A handshake, and the SPD/FDP coalition comes to an end after 13 years. President Karl Carstens (centre) makes the separation official at a ceremony in Bonn with Chancellor Schmidt and Free Democrat chairman Hans-Dietrich Genscher. (Photo: dpa)

new Chancellor whom even his best friends would not claim to have the same qualities.

It is only fair to say that Helmut Schmidt has foundered not on his own inability but on that of the parties on which he must rely for parliamentary support.

Blame lies for the most part with the Social Democrats, who in a strange flight of arrogance felt able to undermine their authority to govern and capacity for cooperation with a coalition partner by in-fighting and dissension.

But that is how power changes hands in a democracy, and there is no cause to complain that the change has again been brought about by the smallest party in the Bundestag, Hans-Dietrich Genscher's Free Democrats.

As long as a clear two-party system is not brought into being by, say, changes in the electoral law, a small party of this kind is bound to play a key rôle.

In the current party-political system the Free Democrats are in a position to decide who governs in Bonn, or at least have so far been able to do so.

They have tested our patience most severely by waiting so long for radical reasons, but they have finally arrived at the right decision. As in 1966 they have resigned from the government to bring about a change. The leading question that lies ahead is whether the new government in Bonn will appreciate the tasks that face it and be equal to them. Once again there are two major issues: to get the economy going again without destroying the welfare system and to restore 'certainty' about foreign policy.



CDU chairman Helmut Kohl (left) and Hans-Dietrich Genscher... coalition talks. (Photo: Sven Simon)

Election date: crucial point of talks

Federal elections are to be held on 6 March next year. This was one of the major points resolved in talks between the conservative Opposition and the Free Democrats.

There were sharp differences of opinion: the CDU leader and Bavarian Premier, Franz Josef Strauss, wanted to go to the polls as soon as possible, preferably as soon as the no-confidence vote in the Bundestag is over.

Herr Strauss has little sympathy with the Free Democrats. He is confident the CDU/CSU would get an absolute majority, in which case it could ditch the FDP.

But the Shadow Chancellor and CDU leader, Helmut Kohl, wants to keep the Free Democrats, regardless of elections.

He needs them as a counter to Herr Strauss. If the conservatives ruled alone, his fear is that it would be Strauss who would determine policy.

The Free Democrats wanted to delay elections to muster support, and Kohl agreed.

The danger of such a late election is that Kohl may be forced to go into it on a platform of unpopular measures.

Not for nothing does Gerhard Stolteberg, the CDU Premier of Schleswig-Holstein, favour swift decisions. He is thinking in terms of the budget he would have to balance as Finance Minister.

Decisions will need to be taken in time to come into effect in the New Year.

So agreement may be reached fairly fast on a coalition programme and on Cabinet posts. The only controversial appointment is the Interior portfolio for Friedrich Zimmermann of the CSU.

Achim Melchers
(Westdeutsche Allgemeine, 20 September 1982)

Continued on page 2

Is China going to turn its back on the West again? Could there be a rapprochement between Peking and Moscow? These were two of the questions raised in Saarbrücken where 42 China-watchers from 10 countries met on the eve of the Chinese Party congress in Peking.

The debate was topical because of Chinese criticism of the United States in recent months, feelers between Russia and China, and the clash over arms supplies to Taiwan.

Robert A. Scalapino of Berkeley, California, has for many years been a member of the extended team of US Presidential advisers on Far Eastern affairs. He has seldom missed a Congressional hearing on the subject.

He recalled in Saarbrücken that there had long been a debate in the US on whether China was a great power at all, or at least a major factor in the international play of forces.

The issues raised included whether Washington ought to establish strategic ties with Peking and whether America had grounds for fearing it might "lose" China.

Scalapino gave short shrift to the new historical myth that Washington had missed in the late 40s its opportunity of persuading the Chinese Communists not to join forces with Moscow.

President Nixon and Dr Kissinger had made contact with Peking to facili-

Continued from page 1

which has come to look shady in the light of deviationist trends in the SPD.

The second task will be easier to perform than the first.

In economic and social affairs the SPD-FDP coalition was a kind of social contract between trade unions and employers. As long as the two parties were able to reach agreement on compromise social tension could be relied on not to get out of hand.

Now the coalition has broken up this social contract has gone with it for the time being, with the critical result that the trade unions will tend to be as bluntly opposed to the new government in Bonn as they are to the employers.

This is the main reason why it would be so dangerous for the probable partners in a new coalition, the Christian and Free Democrats, to appear to drag their feet on fresh elections.

It would be particularly dangerous for the Free Democrats, as only incontrovertible proof that voters are in favour of political change will put a damper on trade union tendencies to seek confrontation.

It is essential for the country's well-being that a social divide does not arise that Communists and other extremists would dearly like to capitalise on.

Konrad Adenauer managed to avert such a divide in the great leap forward to the free market economy, and the Christian Democrats would do well not to forget the lesson.

The responsibility to be assumed by the sixth Bonn Chancellor will be heavy. Helmut Kohl, the CDU leader, will not be able to bear it alone, always assuming he is elected.

In the country's interest one must wish him a strong and united cabinet who will tackle the issues fearlessly and with the same energy as their predecessors in 1949 and 1969.

There is no occasion for premature praise. We will see soon enough whether the Christian Democrats have gained enough energy and new ideas in 13 years in opposition to be equal to the task.

Wolfgang Wagner

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 18 September 1982)

WORLD AFFAIRS

Playing the China card: the questions behind it

Leading China-watchers from all over the world met in Saarbrücken for a conference hosted by Professor Jürgen Domes of Saarbrücken University. It was also sponsored by research units at the University of California, Berkeley, the University of Kent in Canterbury, England, and the Asia and the World Institute in Taipei.

late the withdrawal from Vietnam, to contribute toward stability in Asia, to have a better starting point for negotiations with Moscow and to ensure that the Sino-Soviet alliance was not reactivated.

Since the Carter administration a strategic link had been advocated on the ground that it was the only way to counteract growing Soviet expansionism. If America and China were to join forces they could exert pressure on Russia.

Critics objected that relations with the Soviet Union would be subjected to unnecessary strain and that China would do no more to contain the Soviet threat than it was already doing in its own interest.

America must also pay heed to its allies in Asia. They were mainly afraid of an increase in Chinese military strength that might not threaten Moscow but would be a threat to China's Asian neighbours.

The policy of the Reagan administration, he said, had now led to a weakening of the US position. Washington had previously taken a middle-of-the-road line and been canvassed for support by both Moscow and Peking.

By opting for a clash with the Soviet Union, America had abandoned this middle-of-the-road position and there were now panic-stricken fears it might forfeit the China card.

This fear had been exploited by Peking to exert pressure on Washington over Taiwan.

Chalmers Johnson, of Berkeley, and June Dreyer-Teufel, of Miami, Florida, confirmed that the US decision largely

to give in, as clearly evidenced by the communiqué, was not the handiwork of State Department doves.

It bore the hallmark of the Pentagon, and even more so that of President Reagan's White House advisers.

The "loss" of Peking would have cost the US administration dearly on the home front, Chalmers Johnson noted, pointing out the miscalculation Dr Kissinger had made.

He had sought to make use of the Sino-Soviet conflict by cabinet diplomacy, but the rapprochement with China had fired the imagination of the American public.

China so fascinated the US public that the American government had found itself a captive of its own policy.

A historic review showed how often Peking had switched course in foreign policy. It might be fine-spun tactics, said Lucian W. Pye of Massachusetts; it might also be a matter of clumsy, inexplicable mistakes.

Why had Peking made such play with the Taiwan issue? Was a power struggle in progress? Was the aim, as Wang Chi-wu of Taipei suspected, to divert attention from domestic difficulties?

Would Teng's position have been in jeopardy if Washington had not climbed down? Or were fears of this kind merely subtly suggested by Peking?

Taiwan is unquestionably a genuine problem for the Communists. The mere existence of the prosperous island is a thorn in their flesh.

There is also the generation problem. This may well be the last opportunity of coming to terms with Kuomintang rivals of yesterday.

Peking, it was suggested, was not to be given a hearing by the younger generation, and certainly not by the wanees themselves.

Han Lih-wu of Taipei agreed. Scalapino (that Mr Reagan had the ball rolling with his Peking election campaign promises).

Peking was bound to fear that it might upgrade its ties with the West. So it had brought pressure to bear on Washington.

This policy of threatening the US was successful. Peking saw through the US's weakness and was able to pressure Mr Reagan into making more and more concessions.

In the process, said Parris Chang, Pennsylvania, China played its Taiwan card.

But Peking had no intention of doing its opening to the West. It would have had stupendous economic consequences, Professor Kraus of Munich pointed out.

China's security interests likewise led out a break with the West. The threat posed by the Soviet Union existed, when all was said and done.

The need for security had prompted Mao to try and talk with the United States. Glauholz, of Munich, drew attention to the link between the USSR and the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia in 1968.

Scalapino conceded that Peking no longer feared a direct Russian attack. A relaxation of tensions in the Moscow was possible and would provide room to manoeuvre in the West.

It was widely agreed in Saarbrücken that in the medium term Peking was expected to pursue the following course in foreign policy:

- Strategic ties with the West on a course of political detachment from Washington and propaganda for the Third World.

- Continuation of the opening to the West in the economic sector.

- A slight relaxation of tensions in relations with Moscow.

Siegfried Thibaut
(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 20 September 1982)

Responsibility for massacre in Beirut

ted its share of the guilt all over the world.

But it bears neither all nor most of the blame for the bloodshed. The most fateful factor was that the role of the international force to supervise the withdrawal of Palestinians under arms was so narrowly defined.

The 800 American, 800 French and 500-odd Italian troops, a force of well over 2,000 men, merely took care to ensure, arguably too much care, that PLO forces withdrew from Beirut.

Yasser Arafat's men were well and truly beaten, deservedly so, and the international force supervised their departure on board fine ships to the accompaniment of worldwide TV coverage.

It failed to make sure that Palestinians who were much more deserving of sympathy and protection, the unarmed Palestinians, were safe.

Governments ordered the US, French and Italian troops home without delay, even sooner than agreed.

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HOME AFFAIRS

What happened en route to the coalition break-up

The Bonn coalition stopped functioning a week before the end came. What was not known publicly.

The beginning of the end was when Chancellor Schmidt made his state of the nation speech in the Bundestag and called the Free Democrats to state clearly what they wanted to do in the coalition.

Since Helmut Schmidt knew that the opposition was planning to topple him at the end of November, he had no choice but to seize the initiative and put an end to the spectacle of a coalition in the process of disintegration.

This could only be done by clearly stating that the coalition was at an end, that he no longer had a majority behind him and that he therefore wanted new elections.

CDU/CSU politicians have often enough said that they consider new elections the cleanest solution. They also stand an excellent chance at the moment of emerging as the winners.

Schmidt, on the other hand, knows that the SPD cannot count on many votes at the moment - neither in the state elections in Hesse this month nor in a national poll.

CDU/CSU is in on the thrashing of power again after 13 years in opposition. Many hopes are pinned on the new government.

The nation expects a government that will lead and give confidence. But the new government is no guarantee that a new one will be any better.

The conservatives are deceiving themselves if they think they have an office. If they don't act differently from their opposition days, hope will quickly vanish.

The truth is that the conservatives have no economic and social programme with which to enter into coalition talks with the FDP.

All the conservatives have to offer so far is the general statement that the public will have to put up with "sweat and belt-tightening."

Chancellor Schmidt was unable to convert this essentially correct statement that was coined by him into a viable government programme.

Does Helmut Kohl think that he can do it with one hand tied behind his back?

The conservatives not only have a shortage of economic ideas; they also have deep-rooted doubts about the leadership qualities of Helmut Kohl.

He is now unopposed as Chancellor candidate because the conservatives are fed up with all the bleating over who is to hold what post. This has harmed their image in the past.

Many top CDU men smile at Kohl with cleaved teeth. They shudder at the idea of Helmut Schmidt as an Opposition MP rather than the head of government taking Kohl apart in a Bundestag debate.

The fog-of-war over the conservative chancellorship nominee has only been suspended. It is far from over; and this is another dead weight on the conservatives' shoulders.

The burden of the many years they

spent in the Opposition is still weighing the conservatives down. The course they took was exactly the opposite of that which lies behind the SPD: The SPD was united in Opposition; its Godsborg Programs (without which it would never have got into power) was a demonstration of solidarity and party discipline.

The Social Democrats' decline did not set in until they became a government party. Now, the SPD is groaning under the impact of factionalism and political rivalry.

With the conservatives, it was the other way round. Their decline started with the loss of power.

In their 13 years in Opposition, they failed to build the image of a party pulling in the same direction.

Rainer Barzel's abortive attempt to topple the Chancellor, the internal party squabbles over the East Bloc Treaties, Strauss' threat to establish a fourth party, the CDU's "Kreuth Declaration of War" on the CDU, the debilitating fight against Kohl's nomination as the chancellorship candidate three years ago from which CDU Chairman Franz-Josef Strauss emerged the winner - all these were milestones along a road that led the conservatives' loss of unity, ideas and profile.

The effects of these years can still be felt. The CDU/CSU have so far done little to dispel doubts as to their leadership qualities.

The hope that is pinned on their assuming government responsibility in Bonn does not rest on their having a convincing alternative programme, presented while in the opposition. The conservatives' capital consists of the weaknesses, the mistakes and the inflexibility of the others. But the moment there has been a change of government, this capital will be worthless.

Bernard Neffesser
(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 11 September 1982)

Conservatives come to the threshold

When asked about this one isolated point of the conservative programme, other senior CDU/CSU politicians answer evasively.

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The fact that he nevertheless agrees with SPD Chairman Willy Brandt that elections should be held now is due to the realisation that the SPD must close ranks again in the opposition.

Even at the cost of being stripped of power, there is growing approval among SPD ranks in Bonn of a change of roles if the voters want it.

The CDU/CSU will have to state clearly whether they think they must go so far in coddling the future coalition partner FDP as to reject new national elections at this stage.

The CDU/CSU and the SPD have some common interest in a pre-national elections phase; to ensure that the FDP is not voted into the Bundestag.

To be consistent, the Chancellor would have to drop the reasons he gave for new elections in the Bundestag debate on 9 September. He said that new elections should be held so that the CDU/CSU and FDP MPs who want a new Chancellor should have a mandate from the people to elect one.

Schmidt's demand was bound to make a new coalition close ranks. He ignored the fact that no such mandate existed in 1966 when CDU/CSU and SPD brought about a change of government in the midst of a legislative period.

In fact, even the Constitution does not call for such a mandate. Instead, it allows a change of government without new elections.

Rudolf Strauch
(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 17 September 1982)

spent in the Opposition is still weighing the conservatives down. The course they took was exactly the opposite of that which lies behind the SPD: The SPD was united in Opposition; its Godsborg Programs (without which it would never have got into power) was a demonstration of solidarity and party discipline.

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Bernard Neffesser
(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 11 September 1982)

Mid-term polls subject to strict rules

Nearly half the Germans questioned in a poll this month want a snap general election, according to the Infas poll organisation.

It reported that 48 per cent were in favour and only 29 per cent against. But holding elections in mid-term is easier said than done. Basic Law, the 1949 Bonn constitution, lays down only two options.

First, in Article 68 the President is empowered to dissolve the Bundestag within 21 days at the Chancellor's request if the Chancellor tables a confidence motion and fails to gain an absolute majority.

The right to dissolve the Bonn parliament no longer applies when the Bundestag votes by an absolute majority of 249 "aye" for an alternative Chancellor.

This provision requires the outgoing Chancellor to grasp the initiative after losing a vote of confidence. If he does not advise the President to dissolve the Bundestag the President cannot do so by himself.

If the Bundestag is dissolved, fresh elections must be held within 60 days.

Second, the President may dissolve the Bundestag, but only if a Chancellor is elected by other than an absolute majority of votes.

This extremely complex process is outlined in Article 63, which stipulates that the candidate proposed by the President is elected Chancellor if he enjoys the support of a majority in the Bundestag.

If he fails to command a majority the Bundestag itself may vote a candidate into office within 14 days by an absolute majority.

If a vote is not held during this period a fresh vote must be held immediately, with the candidate who receives the most votes being elected.

If the candidate elected is voted in by an absolute majority the President must induct him as Chancellor within 7 days.

If he is elected by a simple majority the President has a choice. He can either "induct" him or dissolve the Bundestag.

Mid-term elections have only been held once, in 1972 when Willy Brandt tabled a motion of confidence he made sure of losing in order to hold fresh elections.

Helmut Schmidt likewise suggested to the Bundestag on 17 September that fresh elections be held via a vote of confidence.

But he laid down a clear condition: The CDU/CSU must clearly undertake not to try to gain power in the meantime by holding a vote of confidence to circumvent the provisions of Article 67.

If a vote were held along these lines, with the choice being between Helmut Schmidt and Helmut Kohl, and Dr Kohl polled 249 votes or more, he would be Chancellor in Herr Schmidt's place without any need for elections.

Herr Schmidt would like to see elections held at the end of November.

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 18 September 1982)

DEFENCE

Campaign to standardise European arms production, export policies

The European Parliament wants to forge a common EEC armaments policy before the end of the year.

The Euro-MPs are not looking for total standardisation but for efficient and competitive production, a common stand towards the United States and common criteria for exports.

British Euro-MP Adam Ferguson

Ministry tries to keep lid on costs

The Defence Ministry is trying to introduce tighter controls over spending. Defence Minister Hans Apel has appointed an official controller.

One reason for this step is the Tornado fighter aircraft, the rocketing costs of which have caused a long debate.

The first controller is to be Dr Heinrich Padberg, the present armaments director at the Defence Ministry.

This is something of a surprise because, as the former budget director, he must have been at least partly responsible for errors involving the cost of the Tornado.

A management consultant called in for advice, Manfred Emeke, criticises the controller not as an auditor but as a "managerial navigator" and "the economic conscience of his superior."

The controller would be involved in planning, guiding, supervising, helping and managing.

Emeke and the management consultancy firm McKinsey, who prepared a study, found, among other things, that some 200 staff members of the Ministry's Armaments Department are "practically redundant" because the Federal Office for Military Affairs and Procurement in Koblenz could easily do their work as well.

The Gepard tank was delivered without the necessary logistical provisions, causing additional costs of DM150m. For the Leopard tank, this figure is DM35m and for the Roland anti-aircraft system it is DM120m — all for the same reason.

Another DM2bn could be saved by weeding out unnecessary stock, and DM1bn could be saved by streamlining stock-keeping procedures.

It has turned out that of the DM12bn Bundeswehr stock, only DM2bn worth a year is used.

In the light of all this, it is not surprising that Emeke speaks of "antediluvian methods."

The study also criticises the fact that the army, air force and navy have traditionally been allocated specific quotas of the defence budget (i.e. 50, 30 and 20 per cent respectively) instead of getting the money needed.

The controller will be assisted by sector controllers for each branch of the armed forces.

The controller will be a member of the Ministry's top executive body, the *Kollegium*.

It has not yet been decided how to divide the authorities of the inspector-general and the controller. But experts are confident that there will be no friction.

Helmut Peter Fink

(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 7 September 1982)

has now presented a report calling on the EEC Commission to work out common criteria for the arms procurement programmes of the individual member states.

The Commission is also called upon to establish types of technologies that should be developed a) in Europe and b) in cooperation with the USA.

Mr Ferguson called on the Council of Ministers to:

1. Establish a European Analysis Bureau for Defence Issues that could be an offshoot of the Independent European Programme Group (IEPG). The IEPG now already serves the Nato partners as an instrument in achieving progress in cooperative arms procurement.

The bureau is intended as a clearing house and an agency to provide information on armaments requirements and common production facilities.

2. Replace bilateral agreements with agreements between the Community as a whole and the USA and Canada.

3. Develop bilateral production programmes that would enable European groups of companies to carry out projects developed in the USA and vice versa.

4. Try and arrive at an agreement with the USA on "families of weapons" within which Europeans and Americans would develop differing elements.

Ferguson's proposals revert to ambitious plans dating back to the 1970s. These plans were promoted primarily by the German Christian Democrat Egon Klopsch.

The idea is based on the commitment

provided for in the Treaty of Rome to develop a common industrial policy for the EEC. The Christian Democrats and the Conservatives in the European Parliament hold that this cannot be implemented without the inclusion of armaments policy.

Even the 1978 Klopsch Report called for a common arms procurement policy for financial, military and political reasons.

Financial reasons because cost reduction can only be achieved through cooperation; military reasons because the equipment of Nato partners should be compatible if not identical; and political reasons because the maintenance of an efficient European arms industry is an important precondition for Europe's freedom.

Another major reason for the initiatives put forward since the 1970s has to do with relations between the Community and the USA.

As far back as five years ago, there were critics who deplored the fact that the European-American arms trade was strictly one-way: ten to one in favour of America.

As Ferguson puts it: "The Community's trade is increasingly threatened by the protectionist policy of the US Administration."

The Klopsch Report called for the establishment of a "European Armaments Agency" (a proposal backed by Leo Tindemans) and urged the EEC Commission to draft a "European action programme for the development and manufacture of conventional armaments."

German general in running for top Nato post

The Bonn government would like the Inspector-General of the Bundeswehr, General Jürgen Brandt, appointed chairman of Nato's military committee (MC).

Things almost went wrong last May when the post was about to go to a Dutch general. But Bonn urged that a decision be postponed until this month because there would then be an additional Nato member: Spain.

Insiders are not quite agreed on whether this is really the highest Nato post generals can achieve.

Like Nato's commander-in-chief Europe (SACEUR), who is always an American, the chairman of the military committee must be a four-star general.

The post is therefore particularly attractive to small nations, in military terms, that have difficulty finding a suitable post for a four-star general.

This applies to the current Canadian chairman of the committee, Admiral Robert Fairs. It also applied to Norway's General Zeller Gundersen before him.

While the role of SACEUR is to defend Western Europe with all available means in times of crisis or war, the role of the committee is to reconcile the US general's military needs with the finan-



General Jürgen Brandt... need is for a soldier-diplomat. (Photo: Sven Simon)

cial possibilities of the participating national forces.

As a result, the chairman must — even more so than the commander-in-chief of Nato — be a soldier-diplomat.

Bonn's wish once again to have a German at the head of the committee (a post held earlier by General Steinhoff

Neither of the two demands realised. Instead, the Commission sent a sceptical report by the director of the Aberdeen Centre for Defence Studies, David Greenwood.

Though Greenwood approved of closer cooperation in the armaments sector, he held that the individual members of the Community were not prepared to equip a "supranational" international agency with genuine authority that would enable it to manage management functions for requirements.

Besides, Greenwood does not consider the IEPG an effective instrument of cooperation.

Ferguson rejects this negative assessment, pointing to common arms

developments and project plans originated in the IEPG.

He is now trying to revive the project of a European armaments agency with German support.

He hopes to get the backing of the current speaker of the European Parliament, the Dutch Socialist Piet Dierckx, who should be acceptable even to the parliament's left wing.

In 1977, Dankort told a meeting of the Western European Union committee is firmly convinced that the European Nato countries can create an armaments market that is large enough for an economic output and would not depend on exports to the Third World.

It would indeed be an ideal solution if a common European armaments agency could make Europe's arms market independent of Third World exports.

Ulrich Laatz, 9 September 1982 (Die Welt, 9 September 1982)

and, before him, by General Brandt, has to do with the "General's Wars" that the Bonn Defence Ministry and Nato have waged for years.

Even in the second half of the 1970s, the Bundeswehr occupied considerable general's posts within Nato, but fewer than the other Nato members, Britain, which is roughly equal in military importance.

This disproportion dates back to early years of Nato when Britain, spurred by its World War II victory, repelled generals although it had troops while the Germans kept a profile for psychological reasons because they still had to catch up in terms of training and mastery of English language.

Germany's most spectacular success in the Star Wars was when urged by the commander-in-chief, General Alexander Haig, a second SACEUR post was created for the Germans (next to the traditional British post).

The diplomatically and linguistically gifted General Gerd Schmückle is ideally suited for this post.

But Schmückle's succession to the post is not without problems for the Bonn Defence Ministry. Germany's Admiral G. Luther was fully qualified but the German officers at SHAPE reported him as a good man in the wrong post.

Luther's successor, General Kießling, is now recapturing ground lost by the admiral.

Erich Heine, 13 September 1982 (Frankfurter Rundschau, 13 September 1982)

LABOUR

Another blow for equal pay

Women at a Nuremberg paper factory owned by the Qualla mail order must be paid the same bonuses as their male colleagues, a court has ruled.

However the Federal Labour Court in Kassel has decided to allow the Labour Court in Düsseldorf to decide whether the bonus is legal.

The case is the second of two big legal successes in a 100-year campaign for equal pay.

A year ago women chanted "We have no today. No one can push us back," after a three-year legal wrangle finally ended in their favour when the court in Kassel ruled in favour of equal pay for women at the Holzzei paper-processing laboratory in Gelsenkirchen.

But that case reached the court, after a year, only after a supporting petition of 100 signatures and the women's union, the *Brigitte*, named them Women of the Year.

There was no chanting, no tears of joy and no TV cameras this time. The women, who were called after the case that won *Quelle*, learned of the decision only after a three-month cooling-off period.

Although it is only a partial success, the Kassel judges have now made a decision in favour of women that it is up to them to pay women less is because of sex.

The unions now hope that the court decisions will prompt more women workers to take their equal pay to court.

And the women seem to be doing well that. A group of electrical coil makers from Witten successfully fought

their case before a labour court in Hamm. They said that, unlike their male fellow workers, they were paid the rate for "low physical strain" work. Although, as far back as 1955, the Federal Labour Court ruled that lower rates of pay for women are not allowed, there is still a long way to go before equal pay becomes reality.

Many companies still pay different wages to men and women.

Shortly after the Schickedanz ruling, Gisela Kessler of the print workers' union presented a list of figures showing that wage discrimination caused working women to lose DM40bn in pay last year alone.

The figures are based on women's wages 15 per cent below those of men, though Frau Kessler stresses that the true difference is even greater.

In both the Heinze and the Schickedanz cases the Federal Labour Court judges showed a more progressive attitude than their colleagues at the lower court in Hamm where some women fighting for equal pay were defeated.

In all likelihood, the employers' wage policy will become more sophisticated.

In the Heinze case, the plaintiffs were granted the bonuses they wanted to court about retroactively, but the same bonuses for the future had to be bargained out between management and works council.

A reshuffle within the company made

men workers are more involved in company boards.

The Institute has issued the results of a study which says that the Federal Republic of Germany, the Benelux countries, Austria and France all have men on their works councils.

In Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Britain, Ireland, Switzerland and Italy, co-determination forms part of collective bargaining deals.

In Italy, co-determination is based on a framework law and on collective bargaining deals.

In Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Benelux and Italy, works councils and chairmen must consist entirely of members.

In France, the owner of a company is automatically also the chairman of the works council.

In Sweden, only two-thirds of the works council members are staff representatives.

In all other European countries, the works councils are made up of an equal number of representatives of labour and management. The chairmanship tests the management.

In most European countries, including Germany, staff representatives are elected by the staff.



For victory... Schickedanz Women outside the Federal Labour Court in Kassel. (Photo: dpa)

it difficult to compare the work of men and women.

The Schickedanz ruling also marks a partial success only for the plaintiffs. Though the Federal Labour Court ruled that they must receive the same bonuses as their male fellow workers, it is up to the Düsseldorf Labour Court to decide whether the "labour market bonus" is legal.

The Kassel justices came up with a fine distinction on this point. The question is "whether the bonus is paid because it would otherwise be impossible to find takers for certain jobs or whether it is paid because men are not prepared to work at the same rate of pay as women get for the same job under the same conditions. The latter constitutes discrimination against women."

So far as the realities at various companies are concerned, only expert opinions and further court cases will clarify the finer points.

In any event, the Kassel justices have now made it clear that the onus is on employers to show why rates of pay differ.

Karl-Helmut Kalender
(Deutsches Allgemeines Sonntagsblatt, 5 September 1982)

In Germany, the works council elects a 3- to 5-member economic committee that must be consulted by the supervisory board (as opposed to the managing board, which is responsible for day-to-day running of the company).

French works councils have a right to send four consultative representatives to supervisory board conferences.

In Holland, works councils can issue recommendations for the appointment of supervisory board members.

In the Scandinavian countries, France, Italy, Switzerland and Austria, works councils are entitled to information only.

Apart from Germany, co-determination of staff members on the supervisory board is provided for by law only in Sweden, Denmark, Austria, Norway and Luxembourg.

Germany is the only country where the supervisory boards of major companies must consist of an equal number of staff and management representatives.

In Austria, Norway and Luxembourg, the labour proportion is one-third, in Sweden and Denmark, staff has only two representatives on supervisory boards.

In all other countries, there are no legal provisions for staff representation on supervisory boards.

Stephan Claus
(Hamburger Abendblatt, 10 September 1982)

Both sides," Döding said, "must therefore be prepared to make sacrifices. The trade unions would be prepared to contribute 1.2 per cent of gross wages and salaries — a genuine sacrifice, without a doubt."

Ernst Breit, chairman of the German Trade Union Federation (DGB) praised "the NGG's courage in departing from the beaten track."

Bonn Labour Minister Heinz Westphal (SPD) told the delegates that he would raise the issue of shorter working lives in the cabinet this autumn.

Günter Döding, chairman of the NGG, said that the plan, named after him, could not be implemented without parliamentary approval and that the scheme would have to be a "blend of government and collective bargaining measures." Döding was confirmed in office for a new term.

The scheme's idea is that older workers voluntarily retire their jobs in favour of younger jobless and school leavers.

As of the age of 58, they would receive 75 per cent of their net income as transition pay until the official retirement age.

Two-thirds of this amount would be paid by the Federal Labour Office while the other third would be subject to a collective bargaining deal.

The Labour Office and the employers would pay an equal share of the health insurance and social security pension scheme contributions. This means that the social security funds would have no additional strains.

Such an arrangement would generate no additional cost at all in the long run, Döding told the congress.

The transition money would not be taxable because the vacated jobs would be filled by younger workers who would pay taxes on their earnings. As a result, the state would not lose income tax.

But how is this scheme, if it were to be carried out, to relieve the unemployment situation?

Döding expects that two-thirds of the 60-year-old will make use of the early retirement possibility.

"This would provide about 240,000 jobs to be filled by jobless and school-leavers. If the eligibility age is 58, some 50 per cent would make use of the possibility, vacating 550,000 jobs."

Döding figures that his plan could generate half a million jobs.

The most important thing in this model is to make employers undertake to fill the vacated jobs with people now on the dole. This, Westphal said, would also be one of the conditions the Labour Ministry would have to insist on.

Much of the cost would have to be borne by employers and workers.

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Stephan Claus
(Hamburger Abendblatt, 10 September 1982)

Union pushes for early retirement

Hamburger Abendblatt

The small (263,000 members) catering union (NGG) wants early retirement to be introduced as a means of fighting unemployment.

Members of all Federal political parties welcomed the motion, put at the union's ninth national congress, in Nuremberg.

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Stephan Claus
(Hamburger Abendblatt, 10 September 1982)

■ TRADE

Developing nations show what they can do

Batteries from Bangladesh and stainless steel goods from Jordan were on show at a fair of imported goods in Berlin.

Which just goes to show how things have changed. When the first of these shows, called *Partner des Fortschritts* (Partners in Progress), was held 20 years ago, developing nations mainly offered cottage industry exhibits and items connected with their folklore.

There is nothing unexpected about such threshold countries as Taiwan, Hong Kong and South Korea offering electronic and electrical goods.

But it does come as a surprise that countries once considered incapable of producing fairly sophisticated industrial goods are now competing with the West.

The industrial countries have played a major role in helping the developing nations to develop their industries. Today, the North is in danger of no longer being able to stand its ground against

STUTTGARTER ZEITUNG

the South. Nobody could have missed the alarm signals in Berlin.

There are two developments above all that force a review of existing attitudes.

The Third World exhibits in Berlin made it clear that the developing countries are not just copiers of Western products but that they are capable of coming up with their own range of goods. And there are customers.

These goods are competitive since production costs are less in countries where a day's wage is lower than an hourly wage in Germany and where the employer pays no fringe benefits whatsoever.

But this is not all. After-sales service and quality controls have clearly improved in the Third World.

Developing countries are now increasingly trading among each other. This is helped by the Berlin fair which provides a meeting place for sellers and buyers from all parts of the world.

Fair manager Manfred Busche estimates that 40 per cent of deals at the fair this year were accounted for by such contacts among exhibitors. This means that goods from industrial countries stand a lesser chance on Third World markets.

Third World dealers know about the shortcomings in their home countries but they no longer try to hide them. They proudly present their products and the haggling over prices and terms of payment is no different than at the Hanover Industrial Fair.

This is true despite widespread complaints about deteriorating sales opportunities for consumer goods in the industrial countries.

Since the developing nations consider themselves equal now, they are also more determined to take a firm stand towards the European Community. This self confidence has made it tougher for European politicians to negotiate in Berlin.

The EEC bureaucracy — as unloved in Swaziland as here — has come under particularly heavy attack.

Unless the markets are opened to Third World goods and unless we meet the countries of the South half-way, we might have to put up with rather unpleasant political consequences.

Economic Affairs Minister Count Lambsdorff stressed that the development aid given to 1981 was barely enough to pay a fraction of Third World oil costs. OECD countries together provided \$26bn. Oil cost was \$80m.

There is also growing discontent among the developing countries over poor terms of payment and high interest rates.

Yet the Third World is surprisingly optimistic about its position.

It is becoming increasingly clear that the developing countries know that the industrial world will be able to sell its goods in the Third World only if it reciprocates by opening its borders to imports from the South.

Jürgen Michael
(Stuttgarter Zeitung, 11 September 1982)



At the Senegalese stand in Berlin ... from left: Senegal trade official Brune Bonn President Karl Caratana, and the manager of the fair, Manfred Busche. (Photo: AMK)

Third World investment agency hits back



The chief of a Bonn government agency which promotes private investment in the Third World has replied to criticism.

Professor Karl-Helmz Sohn, of the *Deutsche Gesellschaft für Wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit* (DEG), says the agency is not a development aid institution in a strict sense but "a partner of industry."

The agency has come under criticism for allegedly exporting German jobs. Critics say it is interested only in large companies and that it invests too much in large projects.

Professor Sohn says there can be no doubt that investments in the Third World are essential in promoting industrialisation.

Only by improving production and export capabilities can those countries overcome economic and financial problems, he told *Handelsblatt*.

By putting forward this argument, he indirectly defends the DEG against accusations of concentrating its efforts on threshold countries (i.e. nations that have already achieved some industrialisation) while neglecting the poorest of the developing countries that are most in need of "survival aid."

In fulfilling its function ("development of Third World countries based on cooperation in a spirit of partnership between German and Third World companies") the DEG needs the entrepreneur both at home and overseas, he says.

Professor Sohn stressed that the DEG would not turn down investment proposals in one of the less developed countries as a matter of principle, so to speak, but "we can hardly beat somebody into setting up shop in Bangladesh."

The DEG, which was established in 1962, has just celebrated its 20th anniversary. During these 20 years it has co-financed 120,000 jobs in 273 Third World companies, spending DM1.1bn in the form of equities and loans.

Its funds are provided by the Federal government and the earnings from loans, equities, etc.

The DEG was recently authorised to raise DM25m a year on capital markets.

This latest move is seen by Professor Sohn as a back-up for future expansion rather than as a safeguard against the possibility of cutbacks due to a tight budget.

This will enable the DEG to invest about DM130m over the next few years, and although the 1962 corporate law forbids the raising of private capital, there is no intention to privatise the federal institution, despite a proposal that effect by a CDU member of Bundestag.

To do this would require the purchase of DEG equities by private corporations or institutions and, moreover, the DEG would have to become profit-oriented for only thus would investors be interested.

There has been plenty of criticism of the DEG's work — particularly in the past couple of years.

Changes coming

Critics say that the DEG is interested only in large corporations rather than small and medium sized companies. A partner, that it invests too much in large projects such as a copper mine in Papua-New Guinea and a steel mill in Saudi Arabia.

Professor Sohn on small and medium sized companies: "The complaints are justified to some extent and we are about to change our policy on this score."

"We're also streamlining our bureaucracy. There'll be fewer progress reports from the project in the field. That'll mean less red tape and swifter decisions on participation conditions and improved lending terms including special interest rates."

It is naturally easier for the DEG to work with large companies — companies that profit from economies of scale. But only 48 per cent of the entire staff did. This seems

Continued on page 9

BUSINESS

Uncertainties at home and abroad give banks the collywobbles



There is a mood of uncertainty in Germany's banking industry caused by setbacks in domestic and overseas markets.

Banks are lending less money because borrowers can't afford high interest rates.

General major borrowers can no longer pay interest and capital when they have to reduce the value of stock held by them.

Foreign business, such as with Poland and Yugoslavia, has become shaky.

Deutsche Bank is now the only German bank regarded as absolutely healthy. Even the safest among the others is suffering. Reputations have been shaken, including the huge Dresdner and Commerzbank.

Dresdner's troubles have had much to do with the insolvency of AEG, which has damaged not only its financial but also its reputation.

Dresdner Bank is considered the strongest of politically motivated banks in the case of Poland. This is enough to subject any bank's assets and its top executives to thorough scrutiny.

Commerzbank was faced with a crisis last year that some said threatened its survival. The bank made a wrong assessment of international foreign exchange rates and made a bad mistake in assessing the dollar's performance.

The old Commerzbank board was ousted and power and former supervi-

sory board chairman Paul Lichtenborg was called out of retirement and asked to take the helm.

The trade union dominated Bank für Gemeinwirtschaft (BfG) has developed into one of Germany's top banks.

Though handicapped because it lagged behind in industrial financing, which forced it to handle risk cases that had been turned down by the big three, this was offset by its close connection with huge trade-union owned corporations — a booming business for many years — and, of course, its near monopoly in the collection of union dues.

BfG suffered a setback when the trade union owned Neue Heimat (housing and construction) was involved in a scandal and the union owned Volksfürsorge Insurance group showed signs of weakness.

The state banks are the fifth in this group. Originally, they were essentially clearing houses for the various federal states, maintaining close ties with the savings banks system.

As clearing houses they had a huge volume of liquid funds that naturally cried out to be put to good use.

Spearheaded by Westdeutsche Landesbank, these clearing houses ventured into industrial financing.

Here they often either bit off more than they could chew or had an unfortunate hand in picking their customers.

Company share schemes don't appeal to all employees

to show that manual and skilled workers were not so interested.

At Deutsche Bank, 83 per cent of the eligible staff took advantage of the scheme but only 37 per cent of Mannesmann employees opted for it at the last offer.

This figure is roughly the average of the past five years although the Mannesmann share price rose to about 10 per cent.

About 80 German companies operate such schemes. They have between 800,000 and one million employee shareholders (including pensioners) and can hardly be blamed for having inadequately informed their staff. That would be the easy way out.

The truth seems to be that stock as such meets with a great deal of prejudice among blue collar workers.

Stock is seen as something capitalistic — something a decent person wouldn't touch.

As a rule the blue collar worker simply does not understand such things as dividends, tax relief and portfolios. He cannot see through the working of a stock market where the value of his share is decided.

But there must be other, imponderable, elements.

This type of scheme can therefore play only a small part in capital accumulation for most people; and this

The state banks were frequently involved in financing deals that had been turned down by the big three and the BfG. As a result, they were also involved in some of this country's more spectacular bankruptcies.

All this has somewhat tarnished the German banking system's reputation of being all-powerful and all-knowing.

Even Deutsche Bank had some bad setbacks such as with the north German shipping and transport firm, Hapag-Lloyd, which has problems.

The Hapag-Lloyd affair clearly shows that the omnipotence of the West German banking system can lead to trouble because of meshing interests that obstruct a commercially clean-cut policy.

The power of the system lies in the fact that it extends corporate credit, while at the same time being stockholders of the borrowers. Another element here is that the banks' stock exchange deals enable them to manipulate certain stock quotations or at least to gain advantages through access to inside information.

Major Gorman banks compete with each other in foreign exchange deals, which have gained considerable significance in this era of floating exchange rates.

All these areas of business provide extensive profit opportunities but they are also fraught with risks.

Some banks have found themselves in very serious trouble in each of these four areas of business, all of which require a high degree of expertise and a thorough control set-up.

These widespread activities in different areas occasionally dull the sense of risk and lead to laxity in the control system.

The attitude is that, should something go wrong in one area, success elsewhere will offset it.

This business policy is essentially sound. It is frequently glorified under the catch phrase "diversification".

But while such a policy gives bank board members peace of mind, it can be disastrous for the companies involved and for the national economy as a whole.

The insolvencies of AEG and the Wienerwald restaurant chain are cases where the banks' indecision and wrong decisions played a major role.

In the case of AEG, the banks failed to exercise proper control, resulting in losses that ran into the billions.

The Wienerwald Insolvency is likely to cost several million Deutschmarks. The role of the banks has been particularly ambiguous.

Wienerwald owner Friedrich Jahn had deliberately broken down his empire into a large number of small units to avoid falling under trade-union influence under the Co-Determination Act.

It was bad enough for the banks to have gone along with Jahn in evading legal provisions, and it is more than remarkable that in doing so they found themselves unable to disentangle the Jahn empire.

The stabilising potential of the universal banking system has lost much of its reputation for dependability after these adventures.

It would be good if the new generation of bank executives were to think about this.

Günter Buschmann
(Deutsches Allgemeines Sonntagsblatt, 12 September 1982)

to make more money with short-term speculative investments than with other more secure investments.

The most important factor of capital accumulation is what is called the DM624 Act.

Unlike staff shares, this form of savings is promoted by the trade unions and included as part of their collective bargaining deals.

Some 19 million workers are now part of this programme and have their employers and the state feed their savings accounts.

Since the annual average now stands at DM520 per person the legal provisions (DM624) have not yet been made full use of. So there is still some scope there.

But we are getting closer and closer to the magic DM624 per annum, and even now this type of saving amounts to about DM9bn a year (plus government premiums).

Most of this money goes into a variety of long-term savings schemes of which saving towards a home accounts for only 25 to 30 per cent. The figure for life insurance is still lower and corporate stock — even in the form of staff shares — is still short of a breakthrough.

So, is the staff member as shareholder doomed to remaining a dream?

Ernst Berens
(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 4 September 1982)

■ THE EEC

The Euro-Parliament reaches out to its electorate

The European Parliament is trying to break through a barrier to reach its electorate: there is only one year left before the start of the campaign for the second set of direct elections to the European Parliament.

However, it would be unfair to maintain that the suggestions for a more extensive constitutional reform of the European Community result purely from tactical election considerations.

The interested European can well appreciate that the political standstill and the diplomatic lack of action cannot stay forever. Not only members of the European Parliament feel this way but also government representatives in Brussels and Strasbourg have understood it.

Among others, Gaston Thorn, the President of the EC Commission, He appeals for a "peace between the institutions" — Parliament, the Council of Ministers and the Commission.

To make sure this does not turn out to be the peace of the graveyard, various suggestions have been brought up to date in this political autumn.

At a large-scale conference — on the lines of the Messina Conference in 1955 — Thorn wishes to redefine the objectives and priorities of the European Community.

One reason is to help solve problems which will probably emerge from a southern extension of the community to include Spain and Portugal and which cannot be compensated for by the Community's "petty cash".

With this in mind, Thorn began a tour of the ten Community capitals at the start of September.

His list of demands also includes the raising of the EEC's own resources, the fight against unemployment and the realisation of an Economic and Monetary Union.

The Parliament's President, Pier-Dankert, has introduced a twelvemonth plan, which is aimed at bringing the Council of Ministers down from its high horse of ignorance.

The Council should allow Parliament to take part in shaping foreign policy, not draw up treaties with third countries against the will of a requisite majority of Parliament issue systematic reports on legislation and consult Parliament before appointing a new EC Commissioner.

More influence

Dankert suggests to the Commission that it accept the legislative suggestions made by Parliament so as to increase the influence of Parliament's members on legislation.

Parliament, as opposed to the Commission, does not possess a binding right of initiative. If the Commission decides not to pass the parliamentary suggestions on to the Council of Ministers, it should, according to Dankert's proposals, at least justify this decision.

This would lead to greater discussion by force of argument. The European Parliament had already adopted guidelines for the setting up of a European Union before the summer recess.

The EP wishes to turn the national



parliaments into allies to break the opposition shown by the ministerial bureaucracy towards democratic control over European policies.

The general rapporteur on this subject, Altiero Spinelli, has his eyes set on a political hinge upon which the Parliaments could unite on a national and European level: the political parties. For the parties work out election programmes for both levels.

The main thing therefore is to establish an inner consistency between the two levels.

Spinelli is not only interested in specific demands but wishes to set up an institutional framework so as to (1) extend the political influence of the Community to a greater number of fields and (2) not to allow the whole affair to become a competitive fight between unequal partners. Spinelli does not see the responsibility of the Community purely manifesting itself in fixing the producer prices for agricultural pro-

ducts, but in a contribution by the Community to world peace, international security, to a correct and fruitful administration of the Alliances, monetary stability and to a new world economic order.

An ever-increasing number of parliamentary members support the guideline of such a European policy, regardless of which parliamentary party they belong to. However, among the spokesmen, priorities are differently emphasised.

Klaus Hänsch (SPD, Düsseldorf), for example, wars against being "overhasty" in working out a constitutional paper, which in the end may only turn out to be a mere piece of paper.

He does not believe that a constitutional reform can be achieved within the next five or six years. In answer to the accusation that he regards everything as too "short-term" that is down to be completed before the never-nover day he stresses that politicians should first get together to discuss the issues of future policies — ranging from the fight against unemployment, the reform of agricultural policy to the reform of energy policy.

Hopes on both sides of the Rhine 30 years later

The European Parliament has celebrated its 30th birthday.

Thirty years ago, on 10 September 1952 after the ECSC-Treaty came into force the now Assembly was set up in Strasbourg and elected the Belgian, Paul Henri Spaak, as its first president.

A second Parliament had emerged from the idea of European unity. Three years earlier, on 8 August 1949, the Advisory Assembly to the Council of Europe met in Strasbourg and had also elected Spaak as president.

It is difficult for an ageing observer of European affairs to describe the mood and the hopes which moved Europeans on both sides of the Rhine. A parliament for Europe, four years after the end of the most terrible war Europe had ever seen, this was the expression, indeed it seemed to be the fulfilment of a fundamental change in politics and a political culture in the Kantian sense, a culture of eternal peace.

However, the members of the new parliaments soon realised their powerlessness, and they were not willing to accept the situation.

The will of the majority was already expressed on 6 September 1949: "The assembly is of the opinion that the purpose and aim of the Council of Europe must be to create a European political authority with limited functions but genuine legal powers."

The struggle to achieve this objective was fought out for well over two years; then it was given up as lost. Paul Henri Spaak stepped down from his presidential seat and, as an ordinary member of parliament he expressed his disappointment and indignation a few days later:

"The amount of energy used up in this assembly to discover that there is

nothing to do really surprised me. Today, everyone has his own good reason for sticking to his viewpoint... If we in this assembly, and of this I am certain, were to have used one quarter of our energy saying "yes" instead of "no", we would not be in the predicament we are in today."

Spaak then listed the sins and failings one by one which in his eyes were responsible for the failure of efforts in the Advisory Assembly.

Finally, Spaak quoted a sentence from Bernard Shaw's *Joan of Arc*: "Joan of Arc is standing before Charles VII. The English — I do not wish to make historical allusions — have occupied France. Charles VII has fled to Bourges — he has become the Little King of Bourges. Nobody trusts him any more."

Suddenly, Joan appears. She has nothing but her faith and her hope. She begins to speak and all assembled begin to ridicule her. The generals, the bishops, the lawyers — up until the moment that a young man arrives, who accompanies her in her struggle — and let us not forget — in her victory. While others accuse her of being mad he says: "Let the madmen rule! Look what the wise men have brought us!"

"Whether we wish to hear it or not, today this is no longer the assembly which represents the cause of a United Europe."

One man foresaw this dilemma, Robert Schuman, advised by the brilliant Jean Genet. They brought the idea of a united Europe on to a new track. The development of the community began.

The second Parliament had just started its activities when the members, led by Alcide de Gasperi, did what

Gerd Pfennig (CDU, Berlin), on the other hand, would like to see a European Union to begin with, and supports adopting a working plan by autumn 1983, which could then be presented to the national parliaments and governments to be brought into election campaign.

He does not just want to see the intentions of the Community described but interested in specific content of a Community policy.

One of the services which should be rendered by the European Parliament should apparently be to think through a new treaty, but to make that with an eye on the government. The ten member states that they agree by the letter and the spirit of the Treaty of Rome.

Fewer controls

The Christian Democrats, for example, at the plenary session in Strasbourg, made an appeal for a more "European" treatment of international commuters and the lists are fighting for the removal of frontier controls.

A citizen's Europe should not be the intra-Community borders, but the border with the rest of the world.

Norbert Paul Epp (Rheinischer Merkur/Christliche Tageszeitung, 10 September 1982)

the Council of Europe had failed to work out a constitution for a united Europe.

The fall of the European Community at the end of August 1952 was at the same time the end of a constitution, of this hope. The assembly did not have the power to continue the fight for a political, a real, a citizen's Europe.

Thirty years later, the European Parliament has again resolved to take the struggle for a real Europe. On 10 September 1982 it adopted the guidelines for the setting up of a European Union. Under circumstances more difficult than 30 years ago, supported by a direct mandate there is once more a chance that Europe will become political, i.e. that it will place greater emphasis on social and economic aspects and assume an effective position, whose will can be implemented in a federal parliamentary system.

The yardstick has been known some time: the Parliament must have genuine authority with limited functions but real powers. Yet again the Joan of Arc emerges to characterize the situation in exemplary form.

Standing before Charles VII, she calls upon him to assume his role as King. But Charles says he is afraid. He does not wish to murder anyone, he wishes to be left alone, so that he can amuse himself in his own way. "I did not ask to become King," he says. "I do not wish to be courageous, others be courageous. They should lead me to the last."

Joan of Arc remains firm and says: "There is no way out, Charles. You must bear the burden God has given you. If you cannot become a King, you will remain a beggar."

This was the situation for Charles VII... and this is the situation for the European Parliament today: A King in a beggar's clothes, the members of the European Parliament must take their pick.

Claus Schmiedel (Europäische Zeitung, September 1982)

ENERGY

Nuclear plant plan thrown into doubt

Cost and safety factors are likely to mean the end of plans to build a breeder nuclear reactor at Kalkar, on the Rhine.

Estimates put the cost at DM5bn a year ago.

In addition two reports on safety and security are being considered by the government. One report is sceptical.

The compilers, members of the Research Group on Fast Breeders, say the reactor security provisions are inadequate and the result of an accident could be far worse than with a traditional reactor.

Hitting back

Continued from page 8

Costs are larger than those that can be expected from smaller partners — lists are experienced in foreign countries.

Future projects with major German involvement will be subjected to scrutiny to establish whether the projects can be carried out without it.

Professor Sohn emphasises that it is not easy to interest small or medium companies in overseas ventures — they are too introverted and conservative.

(Händlerblatt, 3 September 1982)

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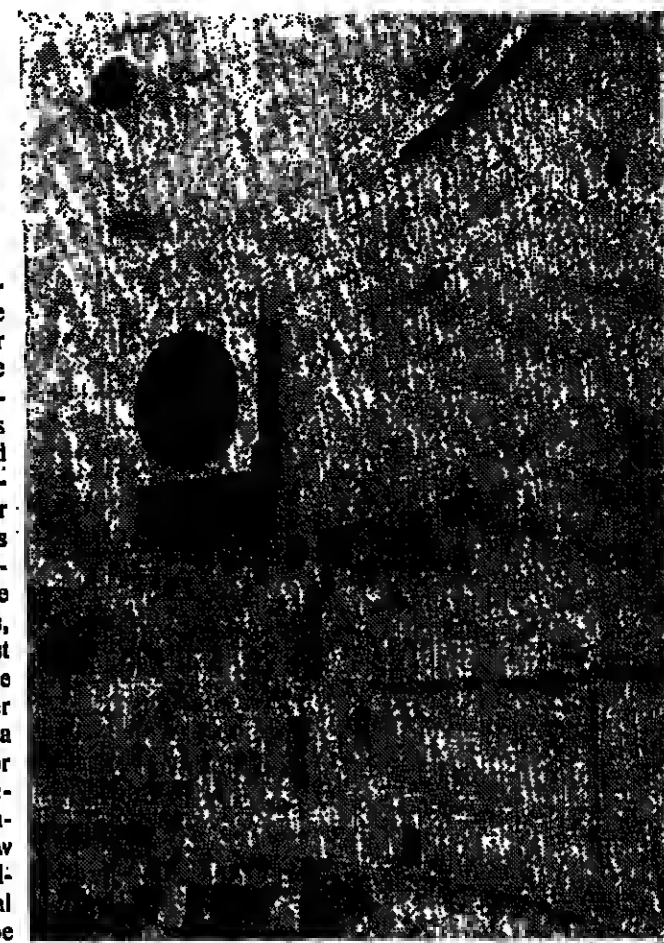
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(Europäische Zeitung, September 1982)



Working it all out... during decontamination work on the Otto Hahn. Calculations on the wall of the safety chamber.

(Photo: dpa)

Atomic-powered ship goes back to diesel

DER TAGESSPIEGEL

An atomic-powered ship has been sold to a shipyard for conversion into a conventional diesel-engine trading vessel.

It has undergone a process to decontaminate parts affected by nuclear fuel in an exercise believed to be the first ever in the world.

The Otto Hahn was launched in Kiel in 1968. It cost about DM200m and was the first West European ship to be powered by nuclear energy.

The vessel, which is being sold for about DM3m, is now "radiologically clean" according to a spokesman for the health and safety authorities.

About 25 specialists were involved in the actual decontamination work. A spokesman for the Research Ministry said the radiation only came to 20 per cent of the permitted dose per person. Radioactivity checks were constantly carried out.

For the first time it has been shown that nuclear installations can be decontaminated.

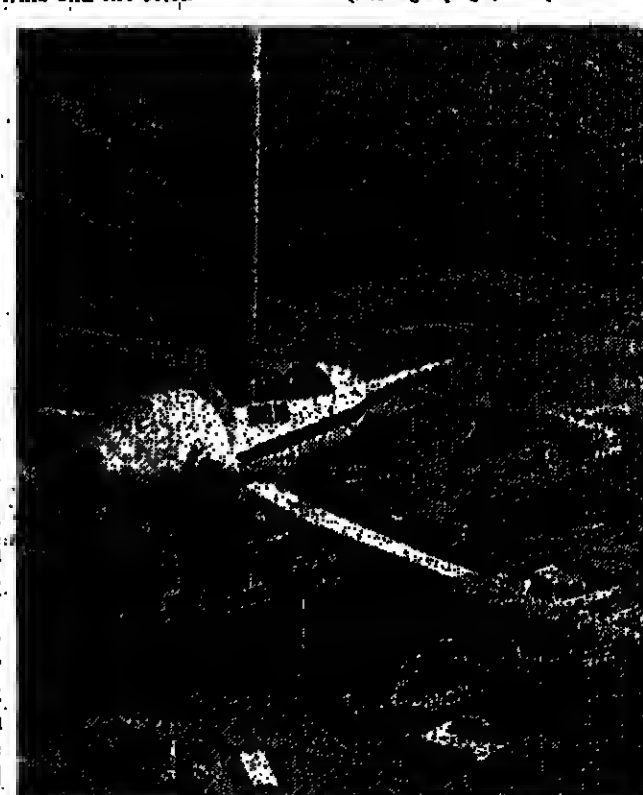
The parts dismantled from the Otto Hahn are to be examined and observed by the Research Ministry over the next ten to fifteen years.

In eleven years the ship travelled about 650,000 nautical miles, in polar and tropical waters. It put into 33 ports in 22 countries.

It used about 80 kilograms of fissile nuclear uranium-235.

The 172 metres long, 23 metres wide vessel could reach 17 knots.

(Der Tagesspiegel, 11 September 1982)



Catching sea breezes

This is said to be the largest windmill in the world. It is a wind energy installation in Kaiser Wilhelm Koog, at the mouth of the Ems, on the North Sea. A three-year testing period will begin next year. Enough power to supply 4,000 households will eventually be produced. The height of the DM80m installation is over 450 feet and the rotor blades are about 180 feet long.

(Photo: dpa)

PHILOSOPHY

A physicist who left a message for men of science

The writer, Heinz Maier-Leibnitz, is a professor at the Central Institute of Low Temperature Research of the Bavarian Academy of Science at Garching. He was a pupil of James Franck.

Physicist James Franck would have turned 100 on 26 August this year. An exhibition dealing with Franck and his colleague, Max Born, who was also born 100 years ago, is being held in Berlin in November.

Much has been written about Born in connection with the most important discovery this century, the start of the development of quantum mechanics, which began with Max Planck and represents the most significant extension of our natural laws since Newton and Maxwell.

Franck was involved in this development as an experimental physicist, and in 1925, together with Gustav Hertz, he received the Nobel Prize for his efforts. But this is not the only reason for the commemoration.

In his most fruitful period, in Berlin and then above all in Göttingen, Franck was a symbol for the flourishing field of physics in Germany.

However, two avatars made him stand out as a shining example as a person:

In April 1933 he resigned his professorship as a protest because he was no longer able to choose his colleagues.

And in 1945, two months before the Hiroshima bomb, Franck, at the time Director of the Chemistry Division of the Metallurgical Laboratory, the Chicago Department of the Manhattan Project, submitted a report to the War Ministry, later known as the Franck report.

Göttingen was totally unprepared for the Nazis... it paid the price

He completed this report together with those sharing his views, and in it he appealed not to use the atomic bomb on humans but to carry out a demonstration to reveal its potentially decisive effect on ending the war.

In both cases he took action, to situations where most would have remained silent.

Franck was not automatically destined to become involved in politics. He was a heart-and-soul physicist. This inclination persuaded him to opt out of the world of business in which his family lived and begin studying chemistry in Frankfurt.

He went on to study physics in Berlin, and his choice of this science resulted from his preference for the simple answers physics could provide. Franck was an ardent supporter of the search for the simple basics.

In Berlin he studied under famous physicists like Max Planck, Drude, Heinrich Rubens and Emil Warburg, completing his doctorate for Warburg.

Academic Berlin at the turn of the century must have been the complete incarnation of the Humboldt-style university idea. The freedom of professor to go their own way in scientific research, thus testing renewing and ex-



tending the universal knowledge they taught.

This freedom was also shared by the up-and-coming scientists at the Institute. Franck joined forces with Gustav Hertz during this period. They both tried to unravel the complication phenomena of gas discharge (today, for example, the fluorescent tube), and they did so with the aid of simple measurements using the known laws of physics.

Their limited success was then the subject of controversial debates, of which scientists were so fond then.

Then, however, something new appeared on the scene. A new era had emerged in Berlin as a result of experiments by Rubens, and decisively influenced by Max Planck's statement demanding a reevaluation of classic mechanics.

The close interaction between scientists soon spread and Franck and Hertz realized that their experiments had a contribution to make.

In many experiments and trials and errors they noticed that the electrons which induce light in gas discharge suffered certain losses of energy, which in some simple cases corresponded to Planck's relationship of the wavelength of the light emitted.

For this explanation, which today is a natural part of the quantum theory, they received the Nobel Prize in 1925. Franck's Nobel speech finished with the words: "I have taken up much of your time describing many dead-ends and detours, which we have taken in a field in which the correct path has been established by Bohr's theory. Only later, after we had learnt to trust in his leadership, did our difficulties disappear."

"We know only too well that the general recognition our work has gained is due to the connection with the ideas of Max Planck and above all Niels Bohr."

Following the war, in which he was awarded the Iron Cross 1st Class as a soldier (there have been many recent descriptions of the patriotic convictions of Jewish families), Franck went to Fritz Haber at the Kaiser-Wilhelm Institute for Physical Chemistry and went on to become Director of the second Physics Institute after a year at the University of Göttingen.

The fact that this Institute existed was part of the policies followed during this period, characterised by the flourishing atmosphere at Göttingen.

Without the active efforts of the Ministry and without the initiative of the expert Althoff to encourage something outstanding (in Göttingen's case this was mathematics), Göttingen would have remained a provincial university.

Today, there is often talk of the need to differentiate the support for the universities in the interests of quality.

However, such a differentiation must start where something good already exists.

Academic positions and material provisions, alone, however, are not enough to make a good university. The "spirit of Göttingen" is the kind of thing that is

needed, and it would appear that Franck played a leading and stimulating role in this respect.

He organised a weekly colloquium, regularly attended by professors of physics, mathematics and to a certain extent chemistry.

Today the word is interdisciplinary interest; at that time there was much more of it and the young scientists and even the students benefited.

The main thing, however, was that they all spoke with one another, met, discussed, became acquainted with the works of others, respected but also criticised them.

The interaction between scientists is always full of tension and can often culminate in rejection and isolation.

To prevent this from happening, strong and selfless personalities are needed, who are interested in both the subjects and the human beings and can gain access to both.

I believe Franck's role in all of these fields was a decisive one. He was eminently sociable, but mainly on a one-to-one basis, often speaking very openly to the younger colleagues.

What impressed me at the time was the feeling of freedom felt by the younger scientists, each having his only special subject and significance; this can only occur in a circle in which at least some are interested in others and at the same time selfless. It is usually very difficult for a Nobel Prize winner to excel beyond his outstanding achievements and branch out into other fields.

Franck obviously intended introducing the new established quantum theory as a tool for analysing numerous phenomena in the atomic field and the field of chemistry. For this purpose he worked together with a huge number of fellow scientists, who had applied from all over the world, many graduate students studying for their doctorate. Many topics had an exploratory character and success took some time to arrive.

Political solutions should not be left entirely to governments

And yet it is hard to predict what the Institute and Göttingen may well have achieved had the year 1933 not dawned upon them. Göttingen was totally unprepared for the Nazi takeover. Revenge was taken for the many years of political abstinence. Göttingen was now vulnerable to brute force.

The subjugation as it were did not take place it was already there. Under these circumstances, the step taken by Franck — he gave up his professorship because he was no longer free to choose his colleagues — was indeed a fanfare, the only one to be heard a long way off. It did not instil great courage into us, but we have something we can think of, and for those who understood Franck's step, affection turned into admiration.

Franck found it hard to leave Germany and soon after the war he returned to help many of us.

Partly he helped us personally in that



James Franck... spoke out when he would have remained silent.

time of dire need, and partly he helped by reestablishing the links to his fellow scientists. The beneficial role played by the 1933 emigrants after the war is not sufficiently well-known. We can thank them enough, as none of the support can be taken for granted. In America, Franck was honoured and conferred university chairs, the last in Chicago. Of course, he was never to establish such a circle as in Göttingen but while in the States he furthered work on photosynthesis and had ideas to contribute to this field.

The problem, however, proved difficult to be solved at that time, even today the process of how to soak up energy from the sun is still fully understood.

Franck was very late in joining with the Manhattan Project, only before the first reactor became critical in Chicago.

Whether he or his colleagues would have done so if they had known that the Germans would build no bomb is a pointless question.

The fact that his experience shown him to be wary of the Germans is obvious. The fact that he had given up being so manipulated in the much thought to the inhumanity of the new weapon before the first bomb was dropped, in a time in which victory for the Allies seemed more important than anything else, this is a great achievement.

Franck made the first step in a direction towards which many would be following to follow him today. He has left with something which questions the following.

In his own words: "Whatever happened in our time, it results, I believe, from the fact that people have mostly left the solving of political problems up to governments."

He has raised a problem which is relevant for all generations. The solution too, are faced with new tasks. Before we are able to do things better than governments we must understand the constraints and motives essential to governing.

Without such knowledge any contribution on our part must remain a plan. We have learnt a great deal from our teachers and James Franck, and tried to pass on our knowledge, but as Franck did, enabling us to become more ourselves and encourage the younger scientists and students to do the same.

Nothing helps as much as a living example.

Heinz Maier-Leibnitz
(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 26 August 1982)

THE CINEMA

Where death lies in wait at the end



Sam Fuller (left) as veteran cameraman and Patrick Bauchau, as the German director in 'Der Stand der Dinge'.

After two weeks filming the team runs out of money and film.

They all have to wait for Gordon, the producer, who flew back to Los Angeles right at the start of filming and promised to return with more money and material.

Prevented from constructing their fictitious world, the camera man, the scriptwriter, the head of production, the script girl and the director have to face up to the fiction of their own existence, must torment themselves with their fears and illusions.

"Life is colour, but black-and-white is more realistic", we hear, and indeed *Der Stand der Dinge* bears all the marks of a story from the realm of shadow, and this not just because death lies waiting at the end of the film.

Wenders' film is a vote against the computer film, large productions like *Poltergeist* or *The Hunters of Hidden Treasure*, where the effects, the pictures and characters are mixed according to the instructions of a data memory bank.

Wim Wenders denies any similarities to his own biography, yet the emotionalism of this film can only be explained by personal involvement.

Nevertheless the jury decided to the award the *Golden Lion* to Wim Wenders. This decision runs against festival custom in as much as last year another German film, *"Die bleierne Zeit"* (The Lead Age) received the first prize.

Considering the fact that Fassbinder's *Querelle* was the only film regarded as an alternative for the *Lion*, this is indeed an unprecedented triumph for German cinema.

Murcel Cnrmé, one of the members of the jury, sharply criticised giving the award to Wenders.

In his opinion, Fassbinder's film will be the only one to go into cinematographic history, although in the end Wenders was the winner.

One of the reasons for his victory is undoubtedly the fact that the main jury at this 50th film festival in Venice was exclusively made up of directors, and the vote for this elegiac, melancholy film, which reflects the crisis of the film industry, could be seen as an indicator of the film-makers' frame of mind.

Admittedly, the award could have

been given to Billy Wilder's *Sunset Boulevard* or to Francois Truffaut's *La Nuit Américaine*.

Wenders shows us the film in the most intimate view of the industry of the subject-matter, however, lends itself to comparison with Fellini's *8 1/2*, that apotheosis of *Lebenskrisen*.

Wenders' film is set on the coast of a forlorn and rotting hotel, in a scene being gradually destroyed by violent storms. Just as *Hammlet* is a story of a man who is being destroyed by the storm, so Wenders' film is a story of a man who is being destroyed by the storm.

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Making a film within a film... Sam Fuller (left) as veteran cameraman and Patrick Bauchau, as the German director in 'Der Stand der Dinge'. (Photo: Filmverlag der Autoren)

been given to Eric Rohmer's film *Le Beau Mariage*.

This cheerful, extremely amusing and most intelligent film, however, does not fit in with the present general mood of finding pleasure in pessimism.

The film must be assigned to the well-worn genre of stories built up around relationships, its appeal results from its attempt to turn convention end rituals upside down.

The tragic-comical heroine in Rohmer's film is called Sabine, an art student living in Le Mans.

Out of the blue she breaks off her relationship with a married man and begins her search for legalised togetherness.

Very soon her eye is caught by a lawyer, and the wooing commences, marked by a comical touch since Rohmer completely reverses the roles of the sexes.

At Sabine's birthday, for example, she sullenly takes note of the birthday greetings, her "beloved" keeps her waiting, then he arrives, more out of duty than inclination, and is totally surprised at the familiarity with which he is greeted; the only thing missing is the dowry.

With a lot of coaxing Sabine lures him into her room; there's a close-up of her hand on the door-knob.

The door closes and the whole repertoire of *man's* unimaginative seductive charms is unfolded — by a woman.

To begin with she "entices" him onto the bed, but this gentleman is not interested in the benevolence of the situation. She then "feels" her head lightly on his chest; the only thing missing is the dowry.

Continued on page 12

A Third Reich flashback to a Jewish boy

The importance of cinema to recall the fate of Jews during the Third Reich is not in doubt.

But many attempts to look critically at the past do not fully use the possibilities of artistic presentation.

The more "realistic" such a pictorial presentation of the atrocities and violence is, the greater the discrepancy.

Ostracism, persecution, concentration camps, torture and murder: many films go to extremes in their reappraisal, and yet they come nowhere near the truth of the problem.

Regentropfen (Raindrops) by Michael Hoffmann and Harry Raymon, on the other hand, put an important point into concrete terms: the aspect of not understanding, or to be more correct, the inability fully to comprehend.

Events after 1933 are seen through the eyes of a child, little Benny Goldbach (Jack Gaula).

Benny lives with his parents (Elfrida Irrall, Welter Rennelsen) in a small town in the Hunsrück area of Rheinland-Palatinate, totally integrated into the community.

The fact that his mother switches off the radio when she hears her son humming a melody which is being played more and more often doesn't bother him. Not yet anyway.

Soon afterwards he is not allowed to play with the other children in the school yard, and he sees uniformed police standing in front of his parents' shop. The family has to do its shopping in the next village.

Wherever he goes, Benny hears the word "Judebub" (Jewish laddy). He has only just learnt to come to terms with being a Jew and now he finds out that he is to be punished just because he is one.

Now, things do start to bother him and he would like to be able to understand what is happening. His parents react nervously to his probing questions, not so much because of fear but because they know no answers themselves.

In 1935 they decide to emigrate to America. Up until the issuing of the visa they stay in Cologne, in the anonymity of a big city, living in a Jewish guesthouse.

At long last they get their yearned for

Continued on page 13



Benny Goldbach (Jack Gaula) and little friend in 'Regentropfen'. (Photo: End-Film)

BEHAVIOUR

Deepest of human secrets revealed by the dirty singlet test

The stinky cotton-singlet smelling test has enabled researchers to find out something more about the role of human sense of smell in personal relations.

Researchers in Saewiesen used German, Italian and Japanese couples to see how they reacted when confronted with someone else's dirty singlet, and if in fact they could recognise the odour as belonging to them or someone else.

Drs Margret Schleidt and Barbara Hold of the Research Centre for Human Ethology of the Max Planck Institute for Behavioural Psychology found that the nose knows and that its role in person-to-person relations is greater than generally assumed.

First, the smells had to be made. This was done by getting each person to sleep seven successive nights in the same singlet, especially issued for the occasion.

This was done three times with three separate sets of singlets under slightly varying conditions. After each seven-day sweaty preliminary, the smelling tests took place.

In the first test, odourless soap and no perfumes or deodorants were allowed.

In the second and third tests, the participants could use which ever they wanted of the bathroom resources known in finer circles as toiletries.

The singlets were presented for smelling after each seven-day period. Each person in the first two tests had to first see if he or she could recognise his or her own personal aroma.

Then he or she had to pick out the wife's/husband's whiff. All singlets then had to be classified into male and female smells.

The last duty was to establish whether the various smells were pleasant,

unpleasant, or whether the sniffers had no strong feelings on the matter.

Now for the scoreboard:

The national performances of the Germans, Japanese and Italians were pretty much the same when it came to recognising their own smell and being able to tell the differences between the way a woman reeks and the way a man does.

About a third identified their own and their partners' singlets.

In each of the three tests, though, singlets were often wrongly smelled-out as belonging to the wife when in fact, the smell was the husband's. And the reverse. But at least the smell was all in the family.

Where there was no free-choice of soap about a third accurately nosed out the difference between male and female smells. In the free-choice section, this capacity to tell fell sharply away.

A tendency of artificial smells to cloak the sex differences also had an effect on the emotional reactions.

In the test series with the uniform toiletries, male and female smells were assessed differently: both sexes more frequently classified the female smell as "pleasant" and its male counterpart as "unpleasant".

Most of women classified their own smell as "pleasant" while most of the men regarded their own smell as "unpleasant".

These assessments had nothing to do with whether a test person could actually differentiate between male and female smells. This means that the emotional

classification in terms of "pleasant", "unpleasant" or "indifferent" reflects a more keen differentiation between the sexes than the verbal classification as male and female.

In the series where everybody could use his own toiletries, the differences between the sexes were less. Both males and females classified male and female smells as predominantly "pleasant" and in some cases the reaction was "indifferent".

Cultural differences played a role in the emotional reaction ("pleasant", "unpleasant") on two points.

The majority of the Italian (and even more so the Japanese) women thought their spouses' smell was "unpleasant" — as opposed to the German women who found it "pleasant".

The Japanese as a whole found more of the smaller "unpleasant" than "pleasant" compared with their German and Italian counterparts.

Explains Dr Hold: "The first difference is probably due to the roles of man and woman in a specific culture. In Germany, more marriages are entered into out of genuine love rather than for social, family or economic reasons. This is not so in Japan and, to some extent, in Italy as well."

"Another element here is the fact that the Japanese are generally more disapproving of smells than Europeans. This has to do with their highly developed cleanliness, their culture and their pronounced drive to suppress any type of body odour."

Of course, the Western civilisation

also considers body odour as disgusting. As a result, it is even more than sex. You don't talk about it, cover up.

Dr Hold says this is one of the reasons why the role of the sense of smell in person-to-person relations has been ignored.

The role of this nose is rather conspicuous. Unlike visual and auditory signals such as facial expressions, res and manner and tone of voice which are consciously perceived and interpreted, odours affect our emotions directly, bypassing thought processes.

"It is for this reason that there is a very close association between smell and emotion. We find it very difficult to describe smells although we emotionally instantly react and judge them," says Dr Schleidt.

This "pre-language level" of perception became evident in the test of smell tests where the emotional reaction to "pleasant", "unpleasant" and "indifferent" was more clearly defined according to sex than the logical oriented classification into male and female.

The findings of the two research groups beyond doubt that we can distinguish between different smells, even persons on the basis of smell, responding emotionally.

Remarkably, man tries to cover up his personal and sex-related smell with a variety of artificial odours in the form of toiletries.

Much thus follows the general tendency towards conformity that Professor Elbl-Elshfeldt, the head of the Ethology Centre, describes as a characteristic of our civilised mass society.

Somewhat exaggerated: The use of personal smells does not seem to be the uniform, unless you look at it from the eye.

(Der Tagesspiegel, 11 September 1982)

HEALTH

The strange threat of low blood pressure

Low blood pressure (hypotonia) is not generally considered an illness, but it can be a threat to life expectancy.

Yet low blood pressure can cause a wide range of disorders. It accounts for 15 per cent of a general practitioner's patients.

There is a big difference between the importance of hypotonia itself and the numbers of disorders it causes. But experts don't quite know how hypotonia should be classified.

This has prompted the medical journal *Medizinische Wochenschrift* (Munich) to devote a complete supplement to the "German disease".

This was followed up by a series of articles at the recent medical congress in Karlsruhe.

It was not until last year that an analysis by W. Boschke of the Institute for Health and Systems Research, Kiel, went persons on the basis of the results of the study came as a surprise even to insiders.

Because the cash is short, especially in the medical sector, the study raises the question to whether the cost of treating a condition that is largely seen as harmless is disproportionate.

The study shows that in 1979 alone 270,000 Germans were forced into retirement as the result of hypotonia.

Low blood pressure equalled gastritis as a reason for doctors to certify a patient unfit for work.

Hypotonia led to the hospitalisation of many patients as did diabetes or heart fractures.

More than twice as many stays in hospital were due to hypotonia as to heart disease.

What matters in community child and youth psychiatry is a wide and close cooperation with all institutions that have anything to do with children.

This not only help to detect child psychiatric cases in good time, but the institutions themselves move towards children with psychiatric problems. Experience shows that most children with such problems are referred to the hospital by the school.

The all-important initial contact with the parents is made by an educational worker who, together with a psychiatrist, a psychologist and other therapeutic staff members, makes the contact.

The parents play a paramount role in the subsequent psychoanalytic work. Swlas psychoanalyst Rosemarie Glanz told the meetings.

The experience of the past five years shows the need for the earliest detection and treatment of children with psychiatric disorders.

Very frequently seemingly healthy children show severe psychiatric disorders once they are examined.

But too much psychiatric and psychotherapeutic activism created a pressure in the family that the child wanted to interfere in its most intimate sphere and make it adapt to new demands. This can become a major problem in preventive efforts by psychiatrists.

Heidrun Grunwaldt, head of the beginning of the century many

spas were prescribed for hypotonia sufferers as for those suffering from cirrhosis of the liver.

It is obvious that low blood pressure accounts for a high proportion of health costs.

The question, is: Is the cost justified, in view of the fact that the low blood pressure syndrome does not even have a name as yet?

The diagnostic uncertainties are highlighted by the many terms (probably more than 10) that are used in describing the syndrome. The terminology ranges from "hypotonia", "circulation disorder" via "orthostatic dysregulation" to the "German disease".

The diagnostic problems are not least due to the fact that it is impossible in individual cases to establish whether hypotonia has caused a disorder or whether it is the only recognisable and measurable thing to go by.

It is also frequently impossible to say whether hypotonia involves health risks and if so, which.

There are no generally accepted criteria that would permit a clear hypotonia diagnosis, making it possible to differentiate between various types of the disorder.

The only point of general agreement is that measuring the blood pressure of a sitting patient is not enough for a clear diagnosis.

Since the role hypotonia plays in various specialised fields of medicine differs widely it is not only necessary to arrive at a reliable diagnosis but also to evolve more efficient therapies for the root of the disorder.

Most low blood pressure sufferers see a general practitioner first. But the deci-

Limited food additives 'not harmful'

people were unable to adequately feed themselves and to have a varied diet.

Improvements have helped bring about a longer life expectancy by eliminating food-related health hazards such as lead poisoning, trichinosis and intestinal infections in infants.

Today's scientific achievements, food technology, strict food laws, state controls and — not least — the care by food manufacturers and dealers have ensured a high degree of safety and quality.

The researchers admit that there are violations. But it is impossible to prevent crimes in the food sector as in any other walk of life.

Today's industrial production methods for canned and deep-frozen foods ensure the least possible loss of vitamins — much more so than a housewife could achieve.

High temperature and very short heating is beyond household facilities. This method ensures the least possible loss of nutrients, improves the durability of sensitive foodstuffs and provides protection against microbiological hazards such as salmonella and aflatoxins.

The committee stresses the need for additives to ensure quality and shelf-

life. They make it possible to transport food over long distances without it spoiling.

Many additives are natural food substances and all are subject to strict controls.

The committee says it is wrong and misleading to speak of them as "chemistry in the cooking pot."

Without these additives it would be impossible to supply varied, tasty and reliable food.

Without additives — especially preservatives — there would be a health risk.

Commenting on heavy metals such as lead, cadmium and mercury, the statement says that they are naturally part of all organisms.

Additional heavy metals find their way into food through pollution.

But these elements in today's food are not such as to give rise to concern. They have not reached danger levels.

Pesticides and chemical fertilisers are here to stay, the statement says. But they must be controlled.

The public must understand that nutrients taken out of the soil by plant life must be replaced. Anybody who wanted to farm without pesticides and artificial fertilisers would have to put up with reduced yields and food shortages.

Comparative analyses show that there is no difference in nutritional value and health between conventional and health food.

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 11 September 1982)

Drive against cancer

The German Cancer Fund has launched an information drive for schoolchildren: 10,000 copies of a 97-page information booklet have been issued to teachers.

"Despite growing health consciousness, systematic health education at school is still neglected. In this country," writes Cancer Fund Chairman Dr Mildred Scheel in her introduction.

She stresses that it is teachers who have always emphasised that personal habits such as smoking, prejudices, and fears of specific diseases along with basic attitudes towards one's own health are acquired at school.

The booklet aims at making children aware of health.

If the drive achieves its objective, Dr Scheel hopes, the attitude towards cancer prevention and early diagnosis will become less inhibited and checkups will be taken for granted.

The booklet is intended as a practical information source for teachers and is meant to help their instruction on the subject.

The whole programme, seven lessons, can be made part of the regular curriculum.

One of the aims is to prevent cigarette smoking. Two chapters are devoted to cigarette smoking and lung cancer.

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 7 September 1982)

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appointment at the American consulate. But they are turned down because the father fails to obtain a health certificate on account of alleged hidden tuberculosis.

The film almost exclusively centres on the family itself. The camera (Jürgen Grundmann) moves to and fro between what the boy sees and what his reactions are.

Laughter and being serious, curiosity and spacelessness.

The camera is the inconspicuous, silent observer, which never leaves the immediate surroundings of Benny and his parents, thus moulding the audience's experience with the experiences of these three characters.

We do not witness spectacular acts of violence against the Jews in this film (a scene is thrown once against a window).

The activities of the Nazis, who are busy issuing new decrees against the Jews, are left out, and are reflected in the changes which quietly and unrelentingly creep into Jewish everyday life in the form of fear and uncertainty.

The isolation from the rest of the (normal) world becomes greater and greater and is soon to be replaced by narrow, locked rooms.

In an effort to flee from the general quarrelling in the guest-house and the sudden rows between his parents.

Benny seeks refuge to the world of the cinema, but he does not take long before the pictures shown here are very similar to those 'outsides'.

The production as a whole although not forcing itself upon the audience contains very impressive scenes, which are void of emotiveness, sentimentality and melancholy, full of warmth, indeed cheerfulness.

The good thing about this film is that the characters are not used to describe a certain period in time, but this period serves to illustrate people.

Angelika Kaps

(Der Tagesspiegel, 16 September 1982)

Psychiatry in Germany has not improved despite the fact that plans for improvement had been drawn up, says a Munich doctor.

Jochen Stork, head of a psychiatric clinic at Munich's technical university, said what improvements had been made were mostly due to private efforts.

Stork told a meeting that none of the improvements put forward in a major report seven years ago had been carried out.

Despite various blueprints for the re-orientation and structural improvement of psychiatric care, Germany has fallen even further behind other countries.

Stork called for a community-oriented outpatient and semi-outpatient type of child and youth psychiatry which has gained in importance over inpatient care.

Semi-outpatient facilities were a necessary alternative to the traditional psychiatric hospital and the number of beds should be reduced.

He conceded that inpatient facilities are still necessary for severe cases, though they should be restructured.

This demand results from Stork's experience since the opening of his clinic five years ago.

It practises a community-oriented approach to child and youth psychiatry that is modelled on the Centre Alfred Binet in Paris where Stork worked for five years.

One of the main principles of this new psychiatry is that the patient must not be viewed as an isolated entity but as part of his environment.

The view that the hospitalisation of

Changes urged in methods of psychiatry

children and juveniles suffering from psychiatric disorders offsets the negative effects of the family is now regarded as obsolete.

Apart from extreme cases, Stork said, "a bad family is still better than no family at all."

Particularly the small child with all its conflicting emotions has its roots in the family and any hospitalisation is traumatic.

The community-oriented approach goes hand-in-hand with the change in the psychotherapeutic process whose emphasis rests on the patient's individual and subjective experience.

The decisive thing here is for the psychiatrist to deal with the patient on a person-to-person basis. He must not only listen to illogicalities but must in fact absorb them, thus helping the patient to bring order into his chaos.

Stork warned of the danger of permitting psychiatry to be governed by ideology on psychotherapeutic methods and criticised the confusingly large number of therapeutic approaches.

He termed psychoanalysis, on which his concept rests, a common point of reference in the terminological confusion of today.

The reason is that after a development extending over more than 80 years

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 14 September 1982)

Death waits

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his strong shoulder, which causes him to act confused, rather unwilling to be pushed like this, and finally to steal out of the house. But there seems to be no end to his suffering, for Sabine keeps on pestering him.

There is a shot of Sabine walking down a boulevard in Paris approaching a telephone box and the audience already knows who is to be called up; the reluctant husband-to-be.

Yet again Rohmer creates the laughter born of the audience's foreknowledge. We then see trains rushing in one or another direction, optically cutting short Sabine's hectic attempts to reach her goal.

Sabine is a young lady with some obvious good points, which keeps the film in balance and prevents inappropriate feelings of pleasure at her misfortune or of pity.

Le Beau Mariage could also be called a film about the state of affairs, as the fact that this material is enough for a comedy shows that not all that much has changed between men and women.

It was one of the climaxes at Venice.

Michael Schwarze

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 10 September 1982)

